No information is available regarding the import of Ceylon copra and cocoanut oil into the Ports of Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether the member has tried to ascertain the quantity of copra exported into these ports by Ceylon.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The figures could not be obtained within the time allowed for answering the interpellation.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether he made any attempt before this interpellation reached his hands?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know the date on which this interpellation reached his hands?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : 6th November 1933.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : Does the member think that that time is insufficient for ascertaining the information?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : This interpellation was sent up not for this meeting but for the last meeting and the answer had to be prepared for that meeting.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know from the member when Ceylon copra began to come into Travancore in large quantities?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : In 1108.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know the time that elapsed betweeen the commencement of the import of Ceylon copra and 6th November, the date on which the member received this interpellation.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : One year.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Am I to understand therefore that the member has not made any attempt during this time to ascertain the quantity of copra imported from Ceylon?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am sorry that the Honourable member did not understand the question of Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai. What he wanted was the quantity of Ceylon copra imported into the ports of Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta and not to Travancore ports.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : സർ, എനിക്കൊരു പ്വായിൻറു് ആഫ് ആർഡർ ഉണ്ടു്. അതായതു, ചോദ്യകർത്താവു സ്റ്റേറുമെൻറു മേശപ്പുറത്തു വയ്ക്കണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ അതിനു് ഉത്തരം പ്വറയുന്നതു ശരിയാണോ?

PRESIDENT: The information is being sought not on the array of figures contained in the answer, but it is merely being asked on the last sentence of the reply.

Acting teachers in the Education Department.

187. * **MR. T. K. ALEXANDER** (*Kunnatnad I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of teachers in the Education Department who have put in acting service of five years and more ;

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[Mr. T. K. Alexander.]

(*b*) the number of them acting at present in permanent vacancies but not confirmed;

(*c*) the reason for not confirming them yet;

(*d*) the number of teachers confirmed during the years 1104 to 1109; and

(*e*) the number of years of their acting service in the department?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) 137.

(*b*) 44.

(*c*) As proposals regarding the seniority lists, minimum qualifications for recruitment, abolition of schools, and other cognate matters are under consideration.

(*d*) 959.

(*e*) Ranging from 7 days to 11 years 2 months and 10 days.

Major Conservancy Station at Piravam.

188. ✻ **MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE** (*Muvattupuzha II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any petition from the Piravam public praying to institute a Major Conservancy at Piravam instead of the Minor Conservancy as already granted: and

(*b*) what steps have been taken in respect of the above petition?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this question does not arise.

Silting up of the Talavady river.

189. ✻ **MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Ambalapuzha I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any part of the Talavady river has got silted up so as to intercept navigation and to affect adversely the paddy cultivation on both sides of the river;

(*b*) whether the matter has been brought to the notice of Government;

(*c*) what steps, if any, have been taken to remove the silt and deepen the river;

(*d*) whether any amount is annually spent to keep the river navigable and, if so, whether such annual work is effective for the purpose; and

(*e*) whether the Government propose to take adequate measures to counteract the serious inconvenience arising from the present state of the river?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) No. But some portions are shallow.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Silted portions were deepened and are now being maintained in navigable condition.

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